

Evening Telegraph

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1871.

THE STATE CONVENTION.

The proceedings of the Republican State Convention, which met and concluded its labors yesterday, were very harmonious. Candidates for State offices were nominated on the first ballot, and a series of resolutions were passed without opposition. While the Republicans of New York seem to be striving to see how much they can increase a Democratic majority which already approximates one hundred thousand, Pennsylvania, ever true and steadfast, is making an auspicious commencement of a campaign which is to determine her ability to maintain her comparatively small but reliable Republican majority. The platform earnestly favors State reform, and demands the Legislature to immediately pass an act calling a State Convention to revise and amend the Constitution. It also favors the abolition of State taxes on personal property, the reduction of national taxation, the protective policy, and endorses the leading measures of the national administration. On all these points the masses of the Republicans of Pennsylvania are cordially united; and if they will make proper efforts to ensure success, there is no doubt of the election of Stanton and Beath in October.

IMPROVED NEW YORK SENSATIONS. DIFFICULT as it may be for our readers to believe the statement, it is nevertheless true that New York improves. Her latest sensations are comparatively innocent. They consist, first, in her rejoicings over the conservative maintenance of the antiquated common law doctrine that the jurors in a murder case must be so ignorant and idiotic as to know nothing whatever of a recent murder that excited the whole community. The tendency of this doctrine to secure to murderers immunity from punishment is so palpable that Tammany Hall has resolutely prohibited its amendment legal modification, notwithstanding the prevalence of a common sense principle of selecting jurors in Philadelphia. Sharp and shrewd Gothamites, therefore, naturally place themselves upon their superior chances for escaping the gallows, and thus excite the envy of the Killers and Bouncers of this benighted provincial region. The second sensation indicative of an improved moral tone is the interest awakened by two prize-fighters, Mace and Coburn, who have lost the sole virtue of their order, and are too cowardly to fight. Formerly the high-toned island of Manhattan demanded real fighting before its enthusiasm was fully aroused. Its favorite Congressman, Morrissey, and its model hero, Heenan, won their blushing honors by good stout blows, and duly reached the pinnacle of New York fame after they had done stalwart bruisers' service. But now, through a series of progressive improvements of the New York mind, the more betting, training, agreement or promise to fight, together with an occasional jaunt to a proposed scene of action, which is so publicly advertised that obliging officials are sure to be present in time to prevent an actual conflict, serves to delight the elevated and refined populace of the magnificent metropolis. If Mace makes mouths at Coburn New York is ready to worship him; and when Coburn boldly demands the stakes and champion's belt as a reward for his skill in developing the new system into a science, New York seriously considers what high office should be reserved for him. The third sensation of the day is the exposure of the peculiar domestic relations of the firm of Woodhull, Claflin & Co., whose claim to be regarded as financial, literary, and social New York stars of the first magnitude is fully established by the judicial exposure of their peculiar surroundings.

THE SENATE ON ITS DIGNITY. THE spectacle of the Senate of the United States standing on its dignity, which is now being presented to an admiring world, is entertaining but not edifying. The dignity of the Senate is an ideal quality, and it is scarcely sufficiently substantial for the grave and reverend members of the "upper house" to stand upon very long at any one time without danger of making themselves and the body they belong to ridiculous in the eyes of their fellow-countrymen. Instead of discussing the important treaty which has been submitted to their consideration, the Senate has employed its valuable time in endeavoring to discover how it was the document got into the newspapers. Now, in consideration of the fact that the Senate is the "leakiest" public body in the country, it is really surprising that the publication of the treaty should have occasioned so much astonishment and indignation, and the attempt to extort the secret of this publication from the newspaper correspondents who are supposed to know all the ins and outs of the matter is a piece of folly in the perpetration of which the Senate will receive but little sympathy from the people of the country, and which we are glad to see that some of the more sensible Senators are wise enough to condemn. Judging other men by themselves, the Senators have summoned certain correspondents to the bar of their house, and have, by intimidation, endeavored to make them tell from whom the treaty was obtained. The correspondents, however, know how to keep a secret even of Senators do not; and on the broad principle that they are not under obligations to keep the secrets of the Government, and that the manner of the publication of the treaty is none of the Senate's business, they have declined to give any information except that the document was not obtained from a Senator or from any employe of the Senate. Senator Carpenter, who has more curiosity than good sense, yesterday made a silly speech when the correspondents of the Tribune were arraigned at the bar of the august body of which he is a member, in which he instituted a

ridiculous comparison between the newspapers and the Ku-klux. Doubtless Mr. Carpenter thought he was making a very brilliant oratorical point when he said this, but we can imagine no other effect for his speech than to make the people of the country set down Carpenter for a fool and his Senatorial brethren to hang their heads with shame that such absurd utterances on such a subject should be made in their chamber by one of their number. The Tribune has thrown down its "déd" to the Senate, by announcing that its correspondents will not disclose the secret in their possession, and that in event of their imprisonment their salaries will be doubled during the period of their confinement, and their places filled by equally active and enterprising men. It is easy to understand that there can be but one result for such a contest as this—the Senate will certainly come off second best. It may imprison the correspondents until the end of the session, but it is not at all probable that it will extort their secret from them. The fact is that this business of investigations by Congressional committees has been played out long ago. The public at large have no sympathy with them whatever, and the present proceeding is simply what more than one Senator has pronounced it to be—a farce, in which Mr. Carpenter and a few others are playing the low comedy parts for the entertainment of the public at large. If the Senate has any real respect for its dignity it will put a stop to the present performance immediately, and before it is too late to recede from the contest it has invited, without being obliged to acknowledge a damaging defeat.

THE SURVEYOR-GENERALSHIP. Colonel Robert B. Beath, the Republican Candidate. We published yesterday a sketch of Dr. David Stanton, who has received the Republican nomination for Auditor-General. Colonel Robert B. Beath, who was nominated for Surveyor-General by a vote of 87 to 40 for Samuel L. Smedley, of this city, was born in this city January 29, 1839. He is of Scotch parentage. He commenced life as an apprentice in the Southwark foundry of Messrs. Merrick & Sons, and graduated from that establishment as a skilful and competent machinist. On the 20th of April, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company G, 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment, and after three months service he was mustered out as a sergeant. On the 5th of September, 1861, he joined Company D, 88th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was made sergeant, and in that capacity served until December 18, 1862, when he was promoted to second lieutenant. At the second battle of Bull Run he was wounded in the foot. He was promoted to captain in August, 1863, and was placed in command of Company A, 6th Regiment United States Colored Troops, and he served with this regiment and company throughout the campaign before Petersburg and on the James river. On the 29th of September, 1864, he was again wounded in the foot in a charge on the Rebel works at New Market or Chapin's Farm, and an amputation of the right leg below the knee was rendered necessary. So soon as he was able to leave the hospital, he was assigned to duty at Camp William Penn, near Philadelphia. In August, 1865, he returned to his regiment, and was placed in charge of the counties of Hanover and Brunswick, forming the sub-District of Wilmington, under the Freedmen's Bureau. In this position he remained until September 20, 1865, when he was mustered out with his regiment, with the rank of Lieutenant-colonel. In 1866 Colonel Beath was a candidate for Common Council on the Republican ticket in the Third ward, and was defeated. General Bingham afterwards appointed him sub-postmaster at Station D, at Second and Master streets. This position he left in July, 1867, to become a book-keeper in one of the largest collieries of Schuylkill county.

OBITUARY. Madame Pauline Viardot-Garcia. The recent death at Turin of the distinguished prima donna Madame Pauline Viardot-Garcia, is announced. She was the sister of Malibran, and daughter of the eminent operatic artist and teacher Manuel Garcia, and was born in Paris in 1821. When quite a little child she came to this country with her father, who carefully cultivated the talents she displayed at an early age. When seven years old she was a skilful pianist, and in her sixteenth year she began to obtain celebrity as a vocalist, her voice having been trained by her mother. In 1839 she made her debut on the operatic stage in Rossini's *Otello*, and after singing with success in Vienna, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, she went to London, where she speedily became a favorite. In the last-named city or in Paris most of the subsequent years of her life were spent. Madame Viardot-Garcia was a very versatile singer, and the wide range of her voice, which covered both the soprano and contralto registers, enabled her to assume a great number of very different parts. She was an artist of the grand school, and her best part was that of "Fides" in Meyerbeer's *Prophete*. In this she had no rival. Among her other most celebrated roles were "Norma," "Donna Anna" in *Don Giovanni*, and "Valentine" in *The Huguenots*. She had a particular partiality for the operas of Gluck, and was considered their best interpreter upon the modern stage. For some seasons past Madame Viardot-Garcia resided at Baden Baden, where she gave musical soirees, which were attended by the most distinguished visitors to that watering place. At these reunions several of her own compositions were successfully produced. She has also recently sung in concerts in London.

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